• Provost Akridge noted that the honor was bestowed because she has dedicated her career to fostering relationships that bring out the best in other, particularly those who have been disadvantaged, undervalued, or marginalized. Besides research recognized as influential in academic social psychology, her diversity efforts on campus have included co-authoring Purdue’s diversity roadmap, co-leading the Diversity Transformation Awards and Provost’s Advisory Committee on Diversity, and forming and directing the Purdue Acceptance and Inclusion Consortium to promote research on inclusion. “She is one of the very few professors who has been tapped as both a University Faculty Scholar and as a Provost’s Fellow, won the University’s top teaching awards, and both personally and programmatically helped students, junior colleagues, and peers. Purdue thus has engaged her expertise and her energy to drive her discipline and the university forward.”

• In her remarks, she singled out the influence and support provided to her over the years by other Psych Sciences professors Jim Nairne, Margo Monteith, and Chris Agnew.

• In addition to Ximena’s being honored in the “faculty” category, the winner of the Leadership in Action Award in the student category was Brittany Mihalec-Adkins. Currently a 3rd-year PhD student in our College’s Department of Human Development & Family Studies, Brittany got her start in higher education majoring our Department of Psychological Sciences. In fact, she was a Research Assistant in the lab of Professor Margo Monteith!